Mutual Funds

3516. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has made any study about functioning of mutual funds in view of enormous increase of mutual fund companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms, laid down for the safeguard of small investors in these companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has not conducted any study on the Mutual Funds. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has conducted a study "Mutual Funds-2000" on the structure of mutual funds, scope and applicability of the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993, registration, governance and operations of mutual funds. The recommendations of the report have been approved by SEBI Board. Based on these recommendations, SEBI has initiated steps to amend the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993. The suggested measures will improve working of the mutual funds and give a greater degree of freedom to the Fund Managers within a well-regulated frame-work as well as increase the level of investor protection.

Funds for the Elections

3517. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government propose to start funding of elections to Central/State Legislatures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The question of State funding of elections is under consideration but no decision has yet been taken.

Pending cases for Export Obligation.

3518. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1940 dated December 8, 1995 regarding pending cases for export obligation and state :

(a) the amount outstanding against each of 123 export defaulters as on March 31, 1995;

(b) whether the Government propose to re-impose "Export Obligation" clause in import licences granted to Indian Import Companies as was the policy prior to July 28, 1992 in view of huge foreign loans liability; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The latest position in regard to the status of the 123 cases referred to Unstarred Question No. 1940 dated December 8, 1995 is that only in 20 cases, default in fulfilling export obligation has been confirmed. Since, the export obligation to be fulfilled was fixed in terms of percentage of annual production and amounts would vary from case to case depending on annual production figures reported and certified by each individual firm, such information is not readily available.

Under the current Export & Import Policy, export obligation is imposed only in respect of imports of Capital goods permitted under licences issued under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme since it relates to imports on concessional/zero duty. Export obligation is not imposed on import of capital goods in other cases where no such licence is required.

Declining of Industrial Production Growth

3519. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether industrial production has been declining continuously since 1991-92 and particularly for the last six months;

(b) if so, the comparative figures thereof, year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. According to index of industrial production, the overall rate of growth of industrial production was 0.6%, 2.3%, 6.0%, 9.4% and 12.0% during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. The averge rate of growth of industrial production during the last six months from November,